

Bible Studies REFUGEES

Instructions for the group facilitator

Thank you for choosing to work through one or more of these three Bible studies on Refugees.

The lessons are designed for small to medium-sized groups. Participants do not need specific (Bible) knowledge or experience with refugees before starting these lessons.

Most questions in the lessons refer to Bible verses which you will read together, or to experiences of participants.

The goal of these Bible studies is to learn together from the Bible and from one another.

The tasks of the facilitator are to actively engage all participants in the conversations and to help the group to work through the lessons within the available time.

The following guidelines will help you to accomplish these tasks:

- Questions asked by the facilitator are often more helpful to the learning process of participants than answers given by the facilitator.
- Give participants time to think before answering the questions in the lessons.
- If necessary, reformulate questions in the lessons, or ask extra questions such as: 'Could you give an example?' or 'Could you be more specific?'
- When one participant has answered a question, you could ask: 'Who would like to add something else?'
- Many questions in the lessons refer to personal experiences of the participants. Try to create space for each participant to share his/her story.
- Encourage those who are quiet to participate in the conversation, and gently limit those who talk a lot. Maybe you could discuss some of the questions in smaller groups or pairs, to enable more persons to talk and share freely.
- Remember the time you have to work through a lesson. In a kind but clear manner, end discussions that take too much time or that distract from the topic. Suggestion: 'This is an important question. Maybe we can talk about this another time. Now, we will continue with'
- At the end of group discussions, summarize what has been said by the participants. It is not always necessary to have one joint conclusion. Feel free to simply say: 'We talked about Some think that Others say that' and move on to the next paragraph or question.